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HOME SEWING PRACTICES OF MARRIED GRADUATES
SCHOOL OF HOME ECONOMICS, OREGON STATE COLLEGE*

The simplification of home sewing as a means of encouraging women and girls to sew has inspired the writer to make a study of the sewing habits and practices of Oregon State College married home economics graduates.

Clara Brown Arney states, "One of the most effective ways to secure improvement is to evaluate the present situation objectively and accurately and then attempt to remedy weaknesses and unsatisfactory conditions brought to light."

In determining the extent to which the clothing construction courses in home economics at Oregon State College are fulfilling the needs of its married graduates, the following specific purposes have been developed:

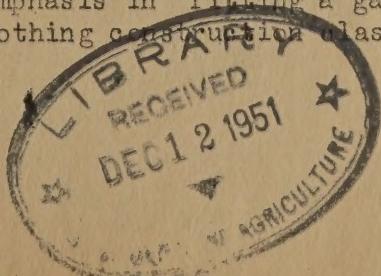
- (1) To obtain the homemakers' reactions to their courses in clothing construction after having had actual experience in the home;
- (2) To determine the nature of home sewing done by married graduates;
- (3) To determine the actual clothing construction methods practiced by these homemakers;
- (4) To determine the kinds of sewing equipment used by them;
- (5) To analyze short-cuts, or efficiency methods, which the married graduates feel should be incorporated in the teaching of clothing construction classes at Oregon State College;
- (6) To analyze suggestions made by these homemakers as to specific ways in which learning experiences in college may be improved.

Recommendations

(Recommendations for the staff of the Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts Department of the School of Home Economics, Oregon State College).

1. Because 60.5 percent of the total number of married graduates in this study indicated that they were not adequately prepared in college in the technique of "fitting a garment to one's self" and because 53 percent stated specifically that the fitting of sleeves into an adult's garment presented a definite fitting problem, it is recommended that more emphasis in "fitting a garment to one's self" be incorporated in clothing construction classes at Oregon State College.

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2. Even though the questionnaire did contain space for checking the availability and the use of dress forms al ready on hand it did not have a space for checking the need for them by the homemaker; consequently, some of the cooperators wrote their personal reactions to the dress form in a section headed "Comments Concerning College Training in Clothing Construction." In view of the comments and the feeling of inadequacy in fitting garments to themselves, it is recommended that instruction in the making of dress forms be included in a clothing construction course.
3. It is conceded that the value of smaller classes has been recognized by the staff and that this problem has been partially met, but because 54 percent of the 214 cooperators felt that smaller classes would have increased their knowledge gained in clothing construction, it is recommended that more consideration be given this problem in all of the clothing construction courses.
4. Even though the problem of having longer periods of class time for construction courses has been met in tailoring classes, it has not been considered as important in other construction courses. Because 37 percent of the total group of homemakers felt that longer periods of class time would have been helpful to them; it is recommended that instead of three 2-hour class periods the class periods might be altered to include two 3-hour laboratory periods in clothing construction classes. The author is fully cognizant of the validity of the homemakers' suggestions for longer class periods, but she also realizes that the problems confronted in scheduling the longer class periods, would be too numerous to warrant the change.
5. Because 64 percent of the total number of cooperators in the study indicated that the instruction in the care and repair of a sewing machine was not adequate, it is recommended that more emphasis be placed on this instruction in the elementary clothing and in the sophomore clothing courses.
6. Because only 50 percent of the cooperators who received training in elementary clothing and in sophomore clothing felt that they were sufficiently prepared in pressing techniques, it is recommended that more emphasis be placed on pressing in the elementary and in the sophomore clothing classes.
7. Finally, because only 76 homemakers (35.4 percent) of the total 215 in this study indicated that short-cut methods of clothing construction should be incorporated in the college clothing construction classes, it is recommended that no major emphasis be placed upon this subject at this time, except at the discretion of the instructors.

*A thesis submitted by Nellie Marie Ledbetter, Oregon State College.
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